

# **FATHER CARROLL MEMORIAL LUNCHEON**



## **BLINDED VETERANS ASSOCIATION 70th NATIONAL CONVENTION**

Louisville Marriott Downtown

Louisville, Kentucky

August 20<sup>th</sup>, 2015

12:30pm-2:30pm

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# Convention Sponsors

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# **PROGRAM**



## **Invocation**

**Dale Stamper,  
Acting BVA National Chaplain**

## **Introduction of Head Table**

**Al Avina, BVA Executive Director**

## **Lunch**

## **Introduction of Luncheon Speaker**

**Al Avina**

## **Luncheon Speaker**

**Mike Hudson, Director of the APH Museum**

## **Presentation Sprint Relay**

**April Lufriu, Sprint**

## **Presentation of Awards**

**Mark Cornell, BVA National President**

**Brigitte Jones, BVA Administrative Director**

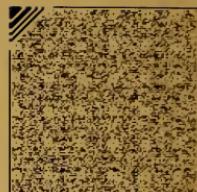
## **Certificates of Appreciation**

**Sarah Bowman, VIST Coordinator**

## **Benediction**

**Dale Stamper**

# **ABOUT FATHER THOMAS CARROLL**



**From 1946 until his death in 1971, Father Thomas J. Carroll served loyally and with great passion as BVA's National Chaplain. Father Carroll's advice and guidance helped lay the foundation for BVA's long history, now 64 years of continuous effort to successfully assist blinded veterans and their families.**

**Born August 6, 1909 in Gloucester, Massachusetts, Father Carroll graduated from Holy Cross College in 1932. He was ordained in 1938 after studies at St. John's Seminary in Brighton, Massachusetts.**

**In 1946, Father Carroll became director of the Boston Catholic Guild for the Blind. In 1952 he brought the idea of safe cane travel skills to the Center in the form of the first mobility program. The following year he conducted the first National Mobility Institute to link the war blind and civilian programs of orientation for the blind.**

**In 1954, he established St. Paul's Rehabilitation Center for newly blinded adults. It was the first civilian facility offering comprehensive rehabilitation for the newly blinded.**



The center, renamed the Carroll Center in 1972, was based on the contents of a book Father Carroll had written that was entitled “Blindness: What It Is, What It Does, and How to Live With It.”

In this monumental work, Father Carroll listed 20 losses suffered by those who go blind during adulthood. He described the loss of sight as a death and a destructive blow to an individual’s self-image. Until the loss is admitted and accepted, he said, the blind cannot even begin the process of assuming their rightful place in the sighted community through blind rehabilitation training.

Father Carroll also dispelled the myth that blind individuals live in darkness. “Light is one medium of sight,” he explained. “It is not sight itself.”

Father Carroll served on many national and international committees, including the President’s Committee on Employment of the Handicapped. He was the recipient of nearly 100 and international honors in work for the blind. He was inducted into the American Printing House for the Blind’s Hall of Fame in 2002.

# **Luncheon Speaker Mike Hudson**



Mike A. Hudson became the director of the Museum of the American Printing House for the Blind in Louisville in 2005. A graduate of Kentucky Wesleyan College and the University of Delaware, he worked in collections at the Kentucky Historical Society from 1987-2005. He lives in Lexington, Kentucky with his wife Paula and son Aaron. Some of Mike's accomplishments at APH include the acquisition of the AER O&M Division Warren Bledsoe Archives, the M.C. Migel Memorial Library, and the Thomas Carroll Papers. He believes that the museum should be a contributor to the national conversation on museum accessibility for folks with vision loss. Mike also serves as the Immediate Past-President of the Southeastern Museums Conference, a regional organization of museums and museum professionals.

# **Luncheon Speaker April Lufriu**

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# American Printing House for the Blind and & Father Thomas Carroll



In May of 2014 the American Printing House (APH) for the Blind in Louisville, would receive forty boxes containing the life's work of Father Thomas Carroll (1909-1971). An outstanding figure in the field of blindness, Father Carroll worked to bridge the significant divide between war and civilian blind throughout his life. He served as the chaplain for the U.S. Army's two rehabilitation centers for blinded soldiers during World War II later published the book "Blindness," in 1961.

In 1954 Father Carroll opened St. Paul's Rehabilitation Center, furnishing it with surplus army camp equipment. Unfortunately a future flood would leave the center in poor condition, damaging not only the center but the records it held. Currently, the staff at APH is working to restore the collection for use. The work contains the correspondence between Father Carroll and virtually every leader in the field of blindness, displaying in perfect balance the juxtaposition that was Father Thomas Carroll; Priest, administrator, healer, counselor, reformer, and visionary.

In this presentation, Mike Hudson, director of the APH museum since 2005, will try to capture the unique relationship between "Father Tom" and the Blinded Veteran's Association he helped found.

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